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OPENING THE DISCUSSION: GENERATIVE AI AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENT LEARNER JOURNEYS

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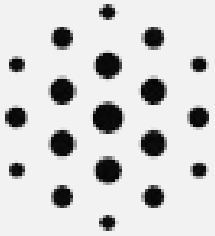
GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

“Describes algorithms that can be used to create new content, including audio, code, images, text, simulations, and videos.”

(McKinsey & Company, 2024)

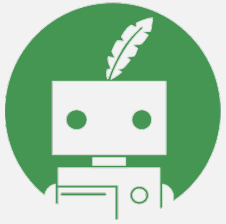
JUST A FEW OF THE THOUSANDS OF AI PLATFORMS

Microsoft Designer



BLACKBOX

ChatGPT



QuillBot

Midjourney

CHATGPT, DUDE.

Me and ChatGPT after I graduate from University
TikTok
@statuslost_pet

PURPOSE

This study aims to understand postgraduates' relationships with ChatGPT as part of their learning journeys.

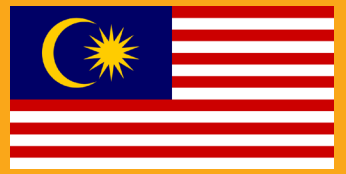
Lived Experiences

Acceptance and Use

PARTICIPANTS

Postgraduate-taught students at the University of Gloucestershire enrolled on the following courses:

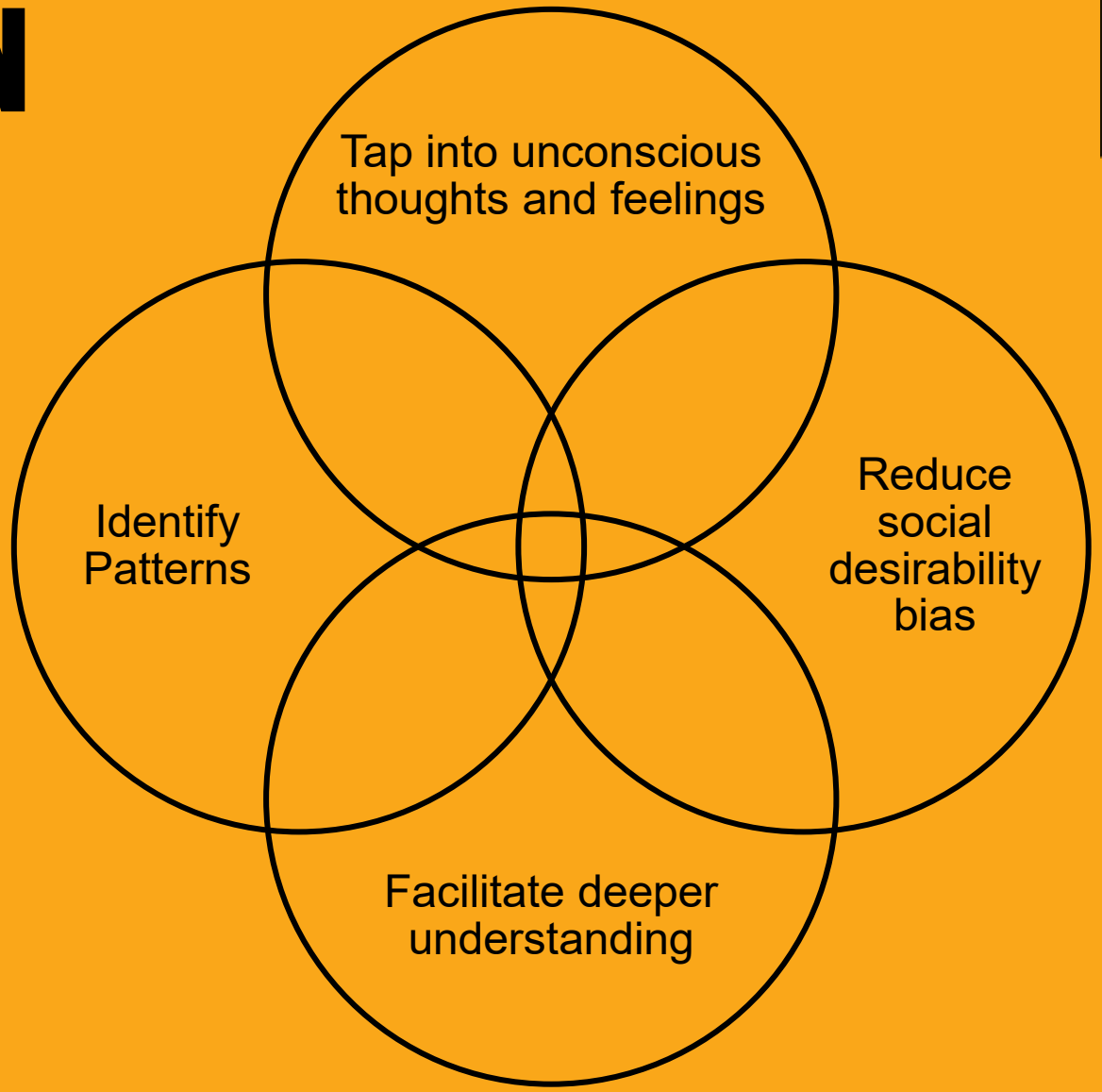
- MSc Human Resources
- Global Business Administration (MBA)
- MSc Marketing



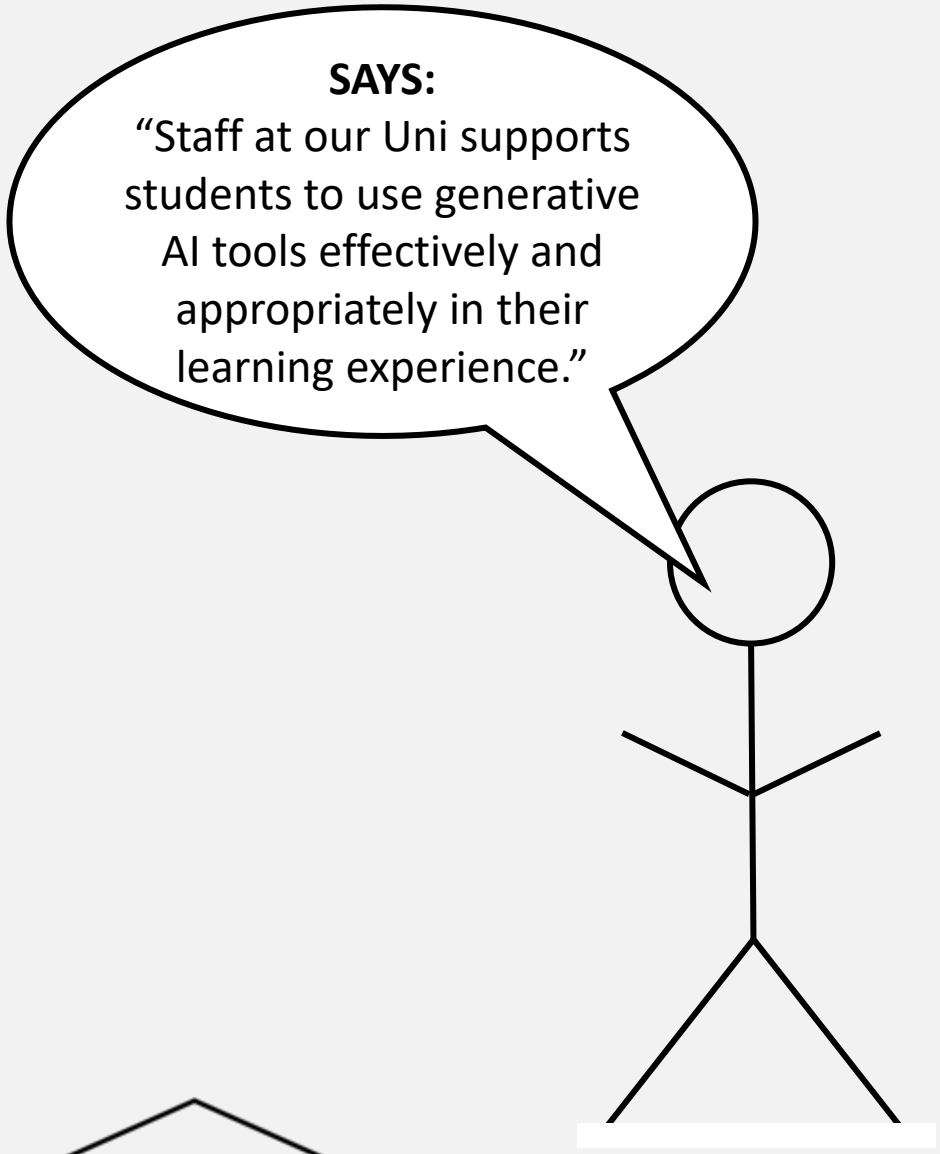
DATA GENERATION

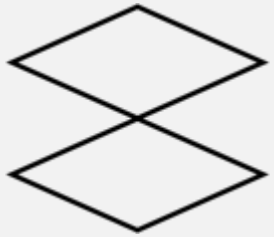
- Semi-Structured Interviews

- Projective Techniques

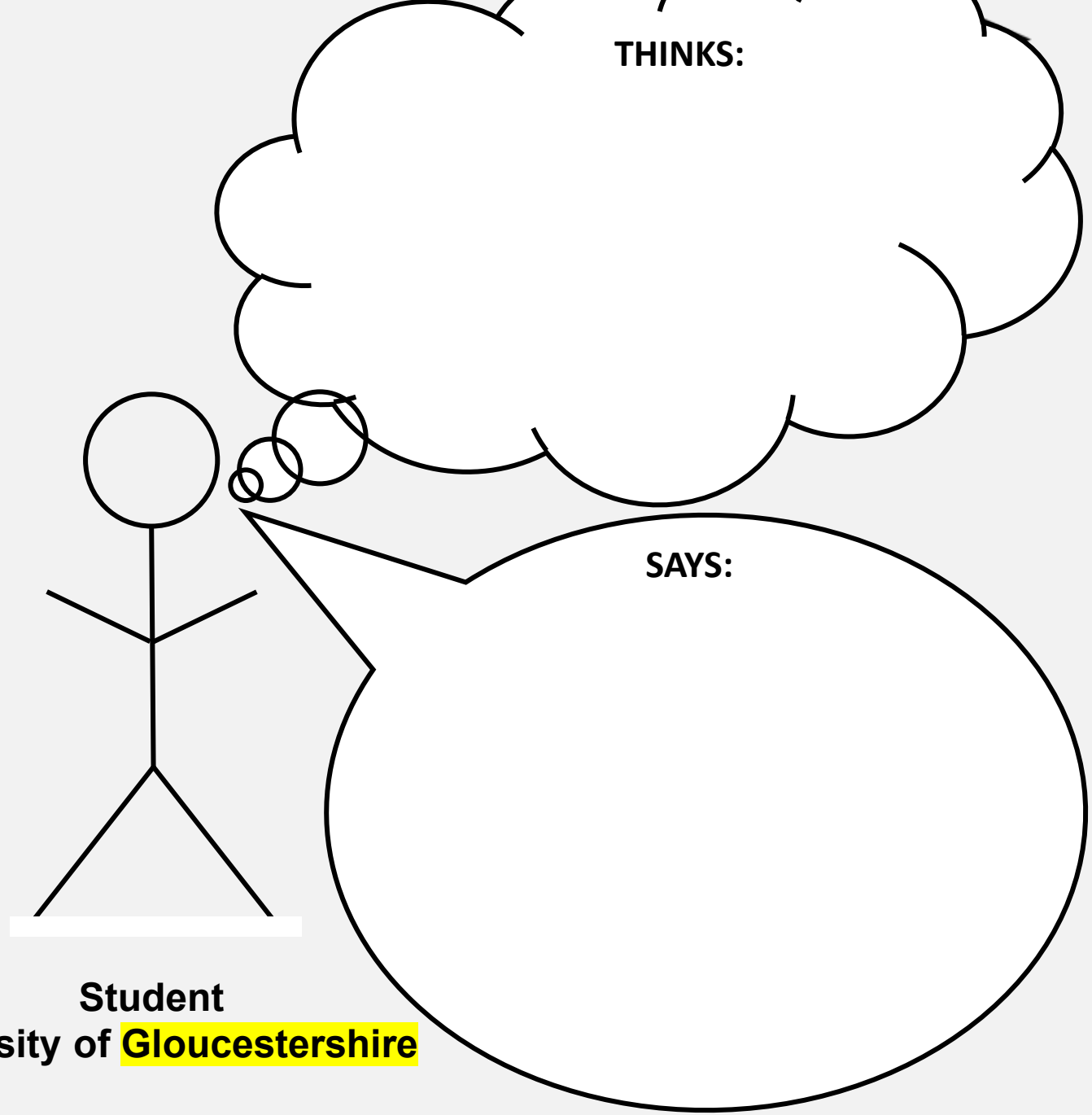


(Creswell, 2012; Rubin & Rubin, 2012; Busetto et al., 2020).





Student
University of XYZ



Student
University of Gloucestershire

THEMES

01 Companionship

02 Accountability

03 Angst

04 Affordance

05 Support

THEME 1: COMPANIONSHIP

ChatGPT is a friend and an aid, rather than a replacement for traditional methods.

"Frequently, yeah, almost every day now I'm using it ……. not only for my, uh, studies, education but for my kids. I'm using ChatGPT right now, and for my wife, and you know, it's good. **Now it's a family thing**."

Jay

"…for daily use, … I asked AI is about, … eating pattern right in UK as an international student, … maybe I lack some vitamin, … supplements … I asked AI as a student, **which …vitamin I should have**"

Gavin

"It's like my colleague, it helps me sometimes with the work and, and it's not that I'm being lazy because I am working really hard, but why do we not, **why is it so wrong to use something that can help us**"

Daisy

THEME 2: ACCOUNTABILITY

Postgraduate students raise significant concerns about accountability to themselves, peers, parents and lecturers.

"I'm not honest about myself and my professor. I'm **trying to trick my professor**. But again … the consequences of this AI - is on me.

Mike

"…things like ChatGPT that pop up, and I know there'll be more in the future where it makes things easier for us, **people are already lazy enough**."

Daisy

"…something I do get worried about, is kind of getting to the end of my degree and then being like, oh well, **it wasn't actually me**."

John

THEME 3: ANGST

Postgraduate students often express anxiety and nervousness about the potential dependency on AI tools, fearing a loss of personal development and capability.

"I think it is really scary and I do think parts of it's **really dangerous** and I think that used wrong, it can just, it's very **nerve-wracking**."

Daisy

“I think it's just **such a dangerous tool** now to have. And it's definitely, I think, more harmful than it is good.”

“It can be quite **demeaning** on your confidence a little bit...”

John

“Whether people like it or not, AI is going to be a massive, a **massive part of the future** and we need to work alongside it…”

Buxton

THEME 4: AFFORDANCE

ChatGPT offers significant affordances in terms of idea generation, time-saving, and ease of use.

"…you **don't need to read the whole article**. You just read the summaries and get all of the information"

Bee

"… help myself … get what I need, but in a **quicker**, **timely manner**, because sometimes it will take me three, four days to do what ChatGPT can do in one second."

Daisy

"It's really, **really quick** and very accessible."

John

"It's **very accessible**. And it's easy also to use."

Jane

THEME 5: SUPPORT

Several participants mentioned the role of lecturers in influencing their perception and use of AI tools.

"Help them **gain that skill** of how to use it, because I think it is really important"

Daisy

"Staff maybe **don't have the level of knowledge** to support students in using the tools, the AI tools"

Buxton

"… should be a training ... **how to use this ChatGPT** ..."

Gavin

"They should **guide students**… to use these tools."

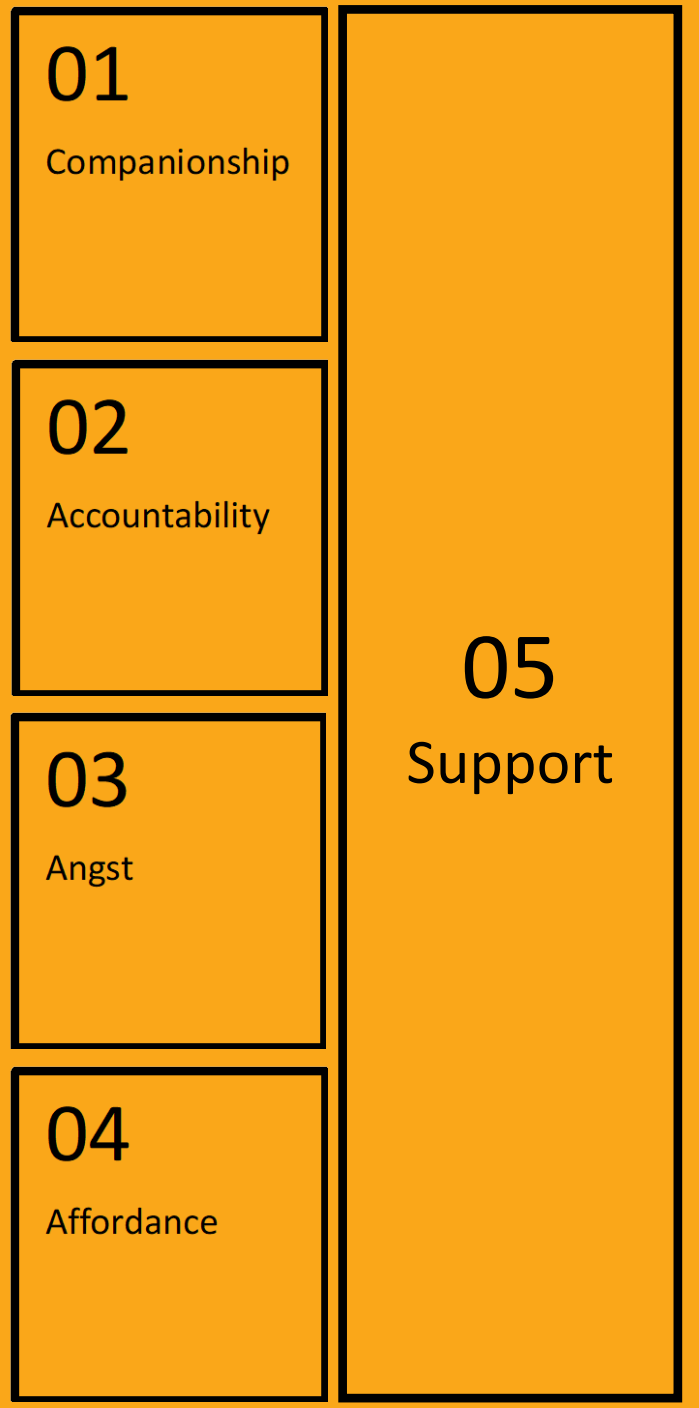
Mike

Training and Seminars
Ethical Considerations
Integration into Curriculum
Supportive Role of Lecturers
Encourage Critical Thinking
Practical Examples and Hands-On Experience
SUPPORT

CONCLUSION

ChatGPT offers significant benefits in terms of **companionship**, and **affordance**, but it also brings challenges related to **accountability** and **angst**.

Proper **support** is essential to maximize its potential while mitigating its challenges.



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THANK YOU!

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SCAN ME